

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 24 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 11 – 24 have been added.

No new matter has been introduced. In a Notice of Allowance dated June 28, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1 – 10. The applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 to clarify the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 – 10 are in condition for allowance.

The applicants have added claims 11 – 24. This RCE and preliminary amendment are presented to the Examiner in lieu of paying the issue fee, which is due on April 26, 2005.

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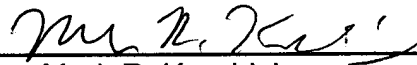
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Applicant respectfully requests an Office Action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7400 should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.


Respectfully submitted,

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